

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SUBJECT

Leading East German Personalities who had
formerly been Nazis

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"The names of leading personalities in Eastern Germany who had formerly been members of the Nazi Party are included in the following information

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a) Bernhard Bechler, a Colonel and the present Chief of Staff of the East German 'Bereitschaften', was born in Gruen, near Lengsfelot in the Vogtland as a son of a small factory owner. He entered the military service in 1932 after finishing his studies and joined the 10th infantry regiment in Dresden as standard bearer. In 1937 he became an Adjutant to the Commander of the 162nd infantry regiment in Chemnitz. At the outbreak of World War II, he served as the Adjutant of the Inspector of the infantry. Bechler joined the Nazi Party at the very beginning of his military career. His wife, who came from a military family was also an ardent Nazi.

b) Heinrich Homann, 38 years old, is the political plenipotentiary of the NDP--the Communist-controlled National Democratic Party in Eastern Germany. Before and during World War II he was a high-ranking SS officer in Bremen. He started his present career with the 'Free Germany Committee' while in the USSR as a POW.

e) The political propaganda and cultural division head of the NDP is Siegfried Dellmann who is also Minister of Finances in the State of Brandenburg. During Hitler's time he was a leader of a Nazi students' organization in Thuringia.

a) The economy division of the NDP is headed by Dr Wilhelm Feldmann who is also Minister of Light Industry of the East German government. Before World War II, he had been an active Nazi member. Forty years old, he comes from the Ruhr area. He was also an active organizer of the 'Free Germany Committee' in the USSR.

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e) The treasurer of the NDP is A Braunes, 28 years old and an HJ (Hitler Jugend) leader before World War II. After having been captured by the Soviets during the war, he served as an interpreter with the Soviet combat troops.

f) The Chairman of the Berlin regional organization of the NDP is Max Schneider, 38 years old, a burgomaster of the East Berlin magistrate. He had been a Hitler Youth leader before World War II. Captured by the Soviets at Stalingrad, he soon joined the 'Free Germany Committee' in the USSR. After his return to Germany he became an activist of the Communists. Schneider was born in Nurnberg."

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